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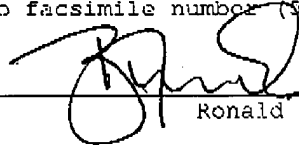
FEB 05 2007

PATENT  
NON-FINAL

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/534,491 Confirmation No. 4972  
Applicant : Toshiaki MASUDA et al.  
Filed : May 10, 2005  
TC/A.U. : 3728  
Examiner : Luan K. Bui  
Dkt. No. : NPR-170  
Cust. No. : 20374

I hereby certify that this paper is being  
facsimile transmitted on February 5, 2007, to  
the United States Patent and Trademark Office  
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Ronald J. Kuboveik

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
TO THE OFFICE ACTION DATED OCTOBER 3, 2006**

**Mail Stop Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 5, 2007

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 3, 2006. A petition for a one-month extension of the period for responding to the Action is being filed concurrently herewith.

Please amend the application as directed below and consider the remarks that follow.

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